

PLAN SUMMARY

Nevada Wild Horse Plan

Plan Title: Nevada Wild Horse Plan (actual title is “Plan of Goals, Strategies and Recommendations for the Preservation & Protection of the Wild Horses for the State of Nevada, January 1999)

Type: Wild Horse Preservation Plan

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Plan Description:

The Nevada Wild Horse Plan presents advise and counsel to the Nevada legislature concerning ways to preserve and protect wild horses, under a multiple use concept. The plan identified several issues as well as a set of goals, strategies, and recommendations for the protection and preservation of wild horses in the state.

Geographic Scope: -- Statewide

Legislative Authority and/or Administrative Policies: The 1977 session of the Nevada Legislature enacted Senate Bill No. 211, which directs the Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses to prepare a statewide plan to carry out the provisions of state law (NRS 504.430 to 504.490) for the preservation of wild horses on public lands in Nevada for federally designated wild horse management areas.

Issues Identified in the pan: (The plan identified the following issues of greatest important to the citizens of Nevada)

To maintain and improve public rangeland health is the ultimate goal for the management of wild horses under a multiple use concept; establish and maintain AML (appropriate management levels) so that the number of wild horses on the federal range is in appropriate balance under a multiple use concept; promote an effective wild horse adoption program involving a wide variety of interest groups that creates a greater demand than are available numbers of wild horses for adoption; promote Nevada's

wild horses through tourism, education and cooperative efforts with the BLM and the various interest groups; and reduce the level of conflict and improve communication and cooperation between the federal agencies, the State of Nevada, the livestock industry, horse advocacy groups and other interested parties.

Plan Goals:

To effectively participate in the land management planning processes of federal entities to preserve and enhance wild horse populations on Nevada rangelands.

To coordinate and collaborate with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Forest Service (FS), the Nevada Dept. of Transportation and the Nevada Division of Wildlife, and private landowners to enhance wild horse habitat and reduce land user conflict through various cooperative land and water improvement projects.

To encourage and support land exchanges of mixed ownership lands that can be blocked up into public ownership for the enhancement of wild horse habitat and population management.

To support federal and state rangeland health policies, and guidelines and standards, for monitoring of Nevada rangelands to determine if goals and objectives of rangeland health are being met.

To evaluate and adjust HMAs (herd management areas) and Territories statewide based upon biological needs and management feasibility within HMAs.

To establish AMLs for each viable HMA.

To insure Genetic uniqueness and herd viability for each HMA or Territory.

To insure that research and technical developments are directed and implemented into management actions affecting wild horses and their herd areas.

To support methods that are humane and effective for removal and placement of excess wild horses from federal lands.

Improve and expand the National Wild Horse Adoption Program to allow AML objectives to be accomplished by the year 2005, and the adoption demand to be greater than available animals.

Improve and increase cooperation and coordination amongst federal and state agencies charged by statute with management of wild horses.

To insure adequate funding of the BLM and FS nationwide program for management of wild horses that will meet the goals and objectives of herd and rangeland health.

To explain current manner of expenditures of the Heil trust fund for the preservation of wild horses in Nevada and priorities for future expenditures.

Planning Principals: These guiding principals which are specific to the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses include:

Promote the management and protection of wild horses;

Act as liaison between the state, the general public and interested organizations on the issue of the preservation of wild horses;

Advise the governor on the status of wild horses in Nevada and the activities of the Commission;

Solicit and accept contributions for the Heil trust fund for wild horses;

Recommend to the legislature legislation which is consistent with federal law;

Develop, identify, initiate, manage and coordinate projects to study, preserve and manage wild horses and their habitat;

Monitor the activities of state and federal agencies, including the military, which effect wild horses;

Participate in programs designed to encourage the protection and management of wild horses;

Develop and manage a plan to educate and inform the public of the activities of the Commission for the preservation of wild horses;

Report biennially to the legislature concerning its programs, objectives and achievements;

Take any action necessary to fulfill the intent of the Heil trust;

Grant an award in an amount it considers appropriate for information leading to the conviction of a person who violates federal or state laws concerning wild horses; and

Adopt regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of NRS 504.430 to 505.590, inclusive.

Cooperating Agencies and Participating Stakeholders: In preparation of the plan, the Commission conducted public hearings throughout the State of Nevada, held public workshop sessions, conducted countless interviews, received and reviewed piles of correspondences and e-mail messages

from the public. The Commission then conducted two public forum workshops for consensus building on issues of greatest importance to Nevadans. The results of those public forums are summarized in Section 5 and are set out in full in Appendix C of the plan.

Date Completed: January 1999

Planning Process & Data Collection: Federal management of wild horses focuses on monitoring, removal of excess animals, preparing the animals for adoption through the Adopt-A-Horse Program, actual adoption process, compliance after adoption and finally titling after one year. As way of background in 1992 BLM developed the Strategic Plan for Management of Wild Horses and burros on Public Lands. The plan established long-term goals and objectives for the program and recognized that wild horses are part the natural ecosystem.